



SAFETY IN SPEECHES



Sail Safe

Protecting our Most Valuable Resource - Our People

Semper Safe

Transforming Safety



Inculcating safety and risk management into all we do in the Navy and Marine Corps means that leaders talk about safety whenever they speak publicly.



The following snippets and sound bytes are intended for use by leaders, speechwriters, and anyone else who wants to further safety by what they say. Please add to it, delete what doesn't work for you, and make it your own.



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➤ WHY DO WE NEED SAFETY?

- On the 12th of October 2000, we lost 17 Sailors on the USS COLE - we rightfully think of it as a national disaster, but in 2001, when we lost 90 Sailors and Marines in Private Motor Vehicle mishaps, we called it our "Best Year."
- Department of the Navy (Navy & Marine Corps) civilians suffered 2.28 lost time injuries per 100 workers in FY 2001 - nearly the same number as in FY 1999 - and we paid out nearly \$247 MIL in compensation



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➤ SECRETARY OF THE NAVY GORDON ENGLAND

- *"I am the Chief of Safety. I am responsible for safety. People ask me what my first priority is -- it's people. Safety is absolutely #1 in importance in taking care of people. If people are really what's most important, then you don't let things happen to your most valuable asset."*
- Thank you for the great work you do serving our Nation, and thank you for showing you care for yourself and your family by coming back to duty alive, well, and ready to serve again.

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➤ CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS ADM VERN CLARK FROM THE BRIDGE:

- *“Sailors are our most valuable assets. Personnel readiness is central to our mission --- and this readiness starts with safety. Make safety YOUR responsibility.”*

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➤ **VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL
OPERATIONS
ADM WILLIAM J. FALLON**

- *"The mission comes first, it is our reason for existence. Safety awareness and procedures should be an integral part of all that we do in executing the mission. Unsafe procedures are detrimental to mission efficiency and effectiveness and must be eliminated. The concept of operational risk management must be understood and applied at every level of command."*

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➤ **COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, GEN. JAMES JONES**

- *"The safety of our Marines is essential to the readiness of our Corps."*
- *"It takes a bold individual to recommend to the commander that we cancel or halt an evolution. Yet this aggressive and thoughtful spirit is just the sort of attitude that we expect from Marines in combat."*

Editorial Comment: Could also be applied in *peacetime/non-combat* situations.

- **Established USMC Executive Safety Board chaired by the ACMC**

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➤ **DASN (SAFETY)** **CONNIE DEWITTE**

- Safety is a shared responsibility
- A strong safety posture drives improved readiness
- Leadership creates our safety culture and all hands need to firmly believe that risk management is a fundamental part of our mission
- We personally need to recognize those who embrace these ideals and reach out to those who need encouragement

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➤ CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS CNO N45, RADM (S) ROBERT REILLY



- *"Every war-fighter knows that one's shipmates are our Navy's most important resource -- made even more important as technology advances, allowing us to reduce manpower requirements. We owe it to ourselves and the nation to safeguard this most precious gift - those who freely and nobly serve the nation. To do otherwise would be contrary to our core values and undermine our combat capability in the end."*
- Safety is absolutely critical to achieving success in four of five of the CNO's focus areas: People, Current Readiness, Long-Term Future Readiness, and Quality of Service.
- The CNO N454 slogan says the Navy is committed to protecting its most valuable resource - its people.

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➤ CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS CNO N09F, RADM STEPHEN A. TURCOTTE



- A Naval aviator knows that safety is a part of being professional, not to mention staying alive. A professional Marine/Sailor knows that too.
- A leader's commitment to operational excellence is better demonstrated by actions than words, and effective risk management is part of that commitment.
- Operational excellence is only attainable when our limited resources, personnel, and weapon systems are available and mission ready.
- Real Marines/Sailors follow ORM 24-7.

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➤ FROM THE FLEET

CAPT Ron Howard, CO, USS JFK (CV 67), 10 Mar 2002

"Stay sharp. Stay focused. Stay safe. Use the training that has made you the best Sailors in the world."

RADM Paul Schultz, Commander, AMPHIB GROUP ONE, 17 Jan 02

"Sailors and their crews are engaged in an inherently dangerous business...and nothing is more important than our Sailors' health and welfare."

CDR Mark Deardurff, CO, HS-14, 23 Jul 02

"When mission accomplishment is time critical, as it often is, it becomes easier to justify short cuts and allow safety to slip by the wayside. It takes a conscious effort by ALL HANDS to REFUSE to let this happen."

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➤ FROM THE FLEET

PR2 Jennifer Smith, USS BOXER, 7 Sep 2002

"Safety is very important, because the gear I work with may be used to save someone's life. So I ensure that myself and everyone else is doing their job safely."

ABE Ryan Reaux, USS CARL VINSON, 8 Oct 02

"Even the smallest malfunction could cause death, so everyone really has to be cautious. It is a very serious and dangerous environment out there. Safety comes first."

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➤ FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY

ALAIN J. P. BELDA, CEO, ALCOA, from his letter posted at the

ALCOA Community EHS website

Leadership in EHS performance “is inseparable from Alcoa’s aspiration to be the best company in the world... Our highest internal priority is that our people should be safe.” ALCOA’s fatality investigation team is made up of senior leaders and professionals and their recommendations are implemented - “with no deviation.” ALCOA is also directing more resources toward health promotion and employee assistance programs “with the intention of reducing the incidence within our workforce of major chronic illnesses.”

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➤ FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY

XEROX EHS CORPORATE POLICY, from the XEROX website

“Protection of the environment and the health and safety of Xerox employees, customers and neighbors from unacceptable risks takes priority over economic considerations and will not be compromised.”

ALAN MCMILLAN, NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, to the Organization Resources Counselors' OSH Group, Aug 01

“America's safety challenge is also Corporate America's challenge. No matter where an injury or tragedy occurs, our employees lose... When an injury strikes, your employees lose a part of themselves. And you lose a part of your employees.”



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➤ SOME NOTABLES FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY

DUPONT sees safety as a competitive advantage and investment in safety and health as good business. They estimate a return on investment of \$4 to \$5 for every dollar invested in safety.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN NEWPORT NEWS, an OSHA VPP Star Site, links safety performance to productivity and holds line managers accountable. They also require contractors to meet corporate and VPP standards.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON Safety Vision considers that all accidents and injuries are preventable, and notes that safety is everyone's responsibility and a key indicator of organizational excellence.

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➤ MORE NOTABLES FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY

DUPONT encourages employees to “*take safety home with you*” providing off-duty safety education and allowing the use of personal protective equipment at home.

INTEL will not conduct any operations or market a product without adequate safeguards.

DELPHI AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS has as many union representatives on design teams as management, and union safety and health representatives report to plant managers.

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➤ OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:

- ORM does not aim to eliminate risk but to manage risk so that the mission can be accomplished with the minimum amount of loss.
- ORM applies safety risk management to operations, but the same can be applied in a non-operational environment



Do ORM "on the fly" and ask three simple questions:

- "WHAT AM I ABOUT TO DO THAT COULD GET ME KILLED OR INJURED?"
- "WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?"
- "IF I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, WHO AM I GOING TO TELL?"

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➤ NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD



- National Safety Council's Safety Agenda for the Nation recognizes the need to nurture a safety culture. *"Company policy and workstation practices must dictate that safety never takes a back seat to other interests. No one should be asked - or tolerate - potential disability or life-threatening risk in the name of cost cutting, productivity or any other priority."*
- National Safety Council recommends that senior leadership should *incorporate safety and occupational health into the definition of readiness and primary business practices, communicate that to all hands and demonstrate by personal action that safety and health is a core value.*
- *"Management must demonstrate its commitment to safety and health and personnel involvement... Programs that do not emphasize and encourage full personnel involvement risk being ineffective."*

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